

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, GB

SUBJECT: GRAND POUBARA -- CHAS. T. MAIN INTERNATIONAL
--- (CTMI)

REF: A) LIBREVILLE 1840; B) STATE 239555

1. CTMI RECEIVED ON SEPT. 28 COPY EDF PRELIMINARY
REPORT EMBASSY POUCHED SEPT. 22 (REF. A). IN ACCORDANCE
WITH GOG PROVISIONS CITED REF A, CTMI WILL SUBMIT
PROPOSAL TO MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER BY NOVEMBER 9
AT LATEST.

2. WHEN PROPOSAL IS COMPLETED, CTMI VICE PRESIDENT
BARRETT WOULD LIKE TO DELIVER IT PERSONALLY TO PRESIDENT
BONGO IN LIBREVILLE AS FOLLOW-UP ON SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING
IN NEW YORK. BARRETT AND BLANC PLAN PRESENT COPY TO
MBOUY-BOUTZIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER GIVING ORIGINAL
TO PRESIDENT (PREFERABLY THE SAME DAY). EMBASSY'S
VIEWS RE THIS STRATEGY AND TENTATIVE ESTIMATE AS TO
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PRESENCE BONGO AND MBOUY-BOUTZIT IN LIBREVILLE DURING

FIRST HALF OF NOVEMBER WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

3. CTMI EXPRESSED SURPRISE EDF PRELIMINARY REPORT CONTAINS NO COST ESTIMATES AND WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IF THEY COULD SEE ORIGINAL FRENCH-LANGUAGE VERSION TO CONFIRM ABSENCE THESE IMPORTANT DATA. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF EMBASSY COULD PROCURE COPY OF THAT VERSION UNLESS EMBASSY BELIEVES SUCH AN EFFORT MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN LIGHT OF HEAVY LEANING ON GOG WHICH AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY DONE RE THE REPORT.

4. CTMI IN PROCESS PREPARING THREE LETTERS, WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO EMBASSY IN A FEW DAYS FOR TRANSMISSION TO GOG OFFICIALS. FIRST LETTER WILL BE FROM BARRETT TO PRESIDENT BONGO, THANKING HIM FOR THE MEETING AND MENTIONING FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO GABON. SECOND LETTER: BLANCTO CHAMBRIER ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF EDF PRELIMINARY REPORT AND INDICATING CTMI EFFORTS TO PREPARE PROPOSAL. THIRD LETTER: BLANCTO DIVUNGI TRANSMITTING COPY OF JULY 1976 SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN ARTICLE ON GABON'S NATURAL NUCLEAR FISSION, WHICH BLANC HAD EARLIER BROUGHT TO DIVUNGI'S ATTENTION.
ROBINSON

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